

Danner, Ward

From: Huetteman, Tom
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 10:40 AM
To: Scott, Jeff; Mogharabi, Nahal
Cc: Armann, Steve
Subject: FW: Immediate Press Release from Jeff Ruch at PEER: Top EPA Official Comes to Malibu High for Toxic Tour

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Green Category

FYI

Tom Huetteman, Assistant Director
RCRA Branch, Land Division, USEPA Region 9
415-972-3751

From: Lyon, Sandra [mailto:slyon@smmusd.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 18, 2014 9:19 AM
To: Carol Serlin; Doug Daugherty; Armann, Steve; Huetteman, Tom
Subject: Fwd: Immediate Press Release from Jeff Ruch at PEER: Top EPA Official Comes to Malibu High for Toxic Tour

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Herkner, Pamela" <pherkner@smmusd.org>
Date: June 18, 2014 at 8:12:00 AM PDT
To: "Block, Jerry" <jblock@smmusd.org>, "Lyon, Sandra" <slyon@smmusd.org>
Subject: Fwd: Immediate Press Release from Jeff Ruch at PEER: Top EPA Official Comes to Malibu High for Toxic Tour

I am sure you saw this...
Pam

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Anna Deshautelle <anna.deshautelle@gmail.com>
Date: June 17, 2014 at 4:35:29 PM PDT
To: Anna Deshautelle <anna.deshautelle@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Fw: Immediate Press Release from Jeff Ruch at PEER: Top EPA Official Comes to Malibu High for Toxic Tour

Fyi, please encourage people who are in town, interested and can attend in the middle of the day! Thanks

On Tuesday, June 17, 2014 1:39 PM, Cassandra Wiseman <topangafairy@gmail.com> wrote:

From: Jeff Ruch <jruch@peer.org>
Subject: News Advisory: Top EPA Official Comes to Malibu High for Toxic Tour
Date: June 17, 2014 at 10:46:34 AM PDT
To: "jd18@me.com" <jd18@me.com>

For Immediate Release
Contact: Malibu Unites 310-848-5400

Head of Region IX EPA to Visit Malibu High This Friday For a "Toxic Tour"

At the request of Malibu Unites, Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator of the USEPA Region IX, will visit Malibu High School on Friday, June 20th at 11:45am.

Blumenfeld was asked to come after months of difficulty getting EPA Region IX to properly direct the Santa Monica-Malibu School District (SMMUSD) to test and remediate PCB materials that have violated the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA). Blumenfeld stated in his email on May 16th, 2014 to Malibu Unites, "I would like to accept your invitation for a tour and to meet in person with members of your organization to discuss your concerns."

The April 28th, 2014 testing and remediation plan from the district's current environmental firm, Environ, was sent back by the EPA for "significant restructuring" because it did not meet minimum requirements for TSCA. Malibu Unites' health scientist, Kurt Fehling, said in his review of the plan, it is "wholly inadequate and does not address protecting human health."

Blumenfeld will tour the campus at 11:45 a.m. in what's known as a "toxic tour" to view the building materials at MHS and assess the contamination issues. At 12:15 p.m., after his tour with Malibu Unites and the teachers, he will have a meeting with the Malibu Unites membership and community to hear their requests for timely and comprehensive testing and remediation at the school.

In 2009, SMMUSD discovered PCBs and eight other chemical toxicants at Malibu High but chose not to inform parents and teachers. In 2011, more than 1,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed with students and teachers on campus. In October 2013, and only after three teachers reported having been diagnosed with thyroid cancer within a short period of time, the prior contamination was revealed.

In November 2013, preliminary PCB testing of caulking and dust occurred and five of the ten classrooms tested violated Federal law (TSCA). These classrooms still have not been remediated and no further testing or investigation has taken place.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified PCBs as a Group 1 Carcinogen, meaning they are known to be carcinogenic to humans.

Getting the head of the EPA Region IX to come to Malibu and tour the school shows the commitment of Malibu Unites to solving this crisis and protecting students and teachers. Malibu Unites has uncovered several health hazards at MHS, including illegal use of pesticides, which resulted in a violation from the State of California; rat feces in multiple classrooms found by the LA County Department of Health; and inappropriate air testing for PCBs by the district's prior hired expert, which diluted results.

"Parents, children, and teachers should come on Friday so Jared Blumenfeld can see the faces of those his decisions will directly affect, and to see that the Malibu community will not allow our children's and teachers' health to be at risk," said Jennifer deNicola, President of Malibu Unites.

Jeff Ruch
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)
2000 P Street, NW Suite 240
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 265-7337; Fax: (202) 265-4192
Website: www.peer.org